

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

August 25, 2007

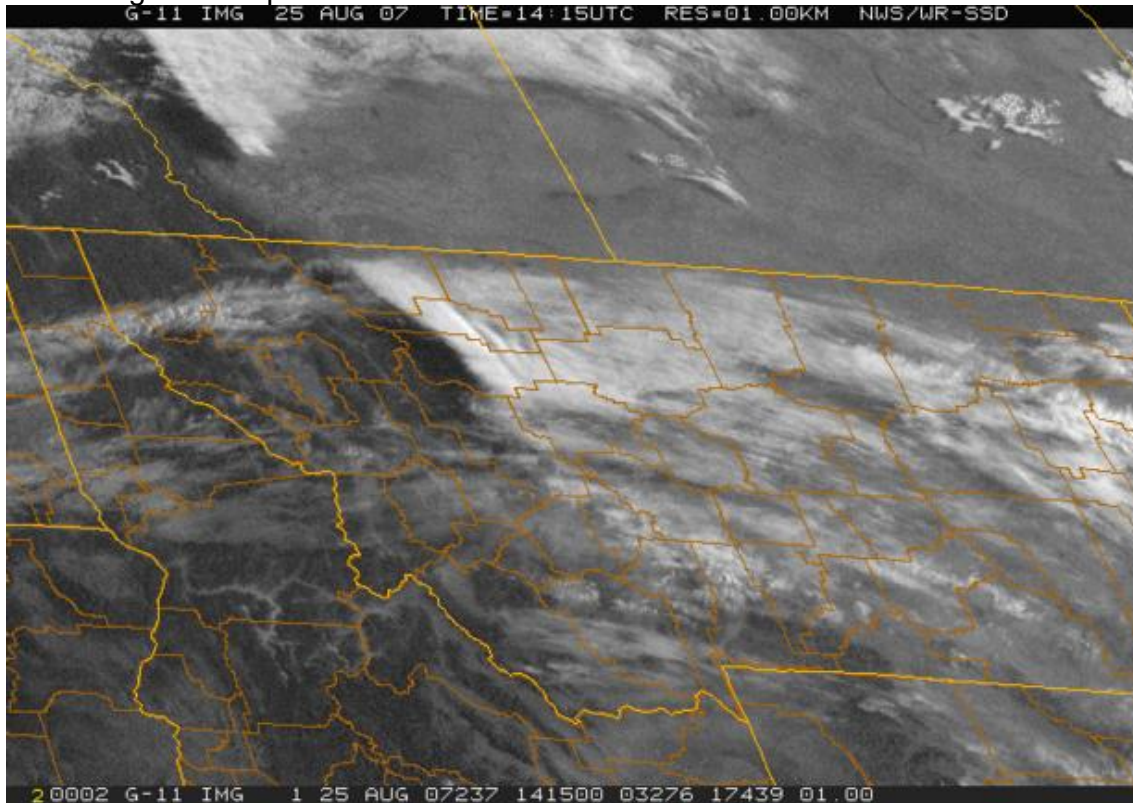
10:00 AM Saturday

FORECAST:

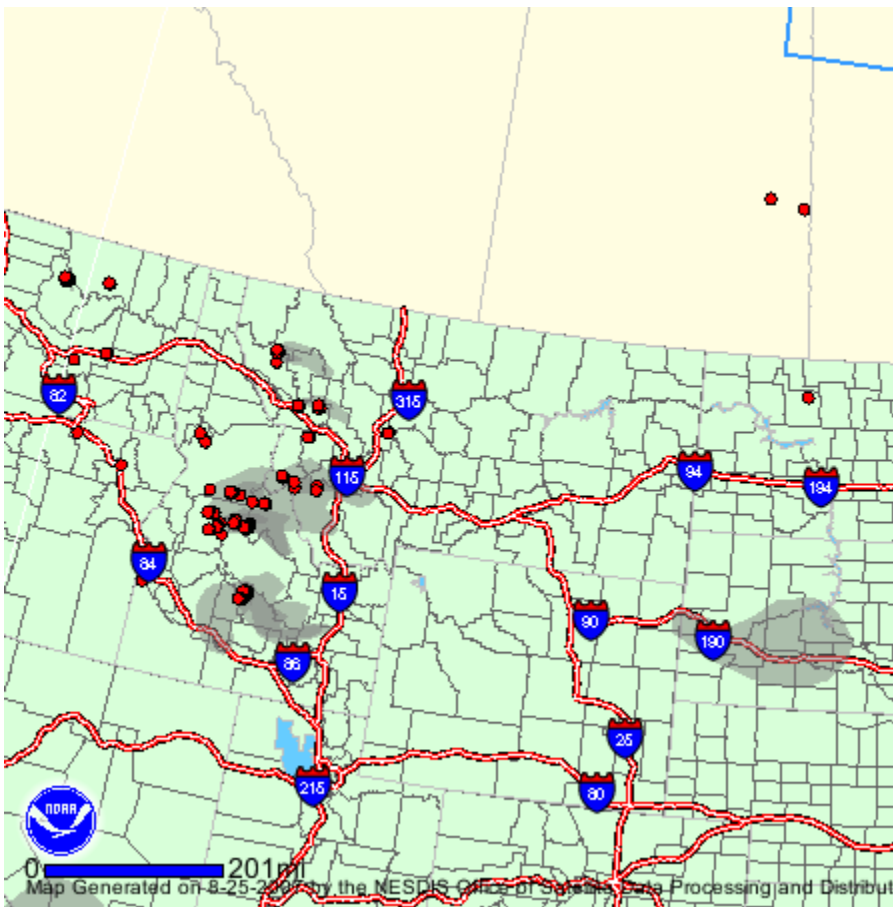
There is a layer of smoke aloft over western Montana and some trapped smoke in the Bitterroot and Seeley/Swan valleys but the surface concentrations at the reporting stations are no worse than moderate. The rest of the state is starting to see broad areas of hazy sky this morning.

Red Flag warnings for hot, dry, and windy conditions are forecast through the day today. These conditions are expected to significantly increase the fire activity levels and to increase smoke levels in the western part of the state and in all communities downwind of the active fires. Transport winds from the west northwest will push smoke from Idaho into the Bitterroot valley and the southwestern corner of Montana. Locally, smoke is expected in the Flathead Valley, the Missoula area, and the Seeley Lake area. The general haze level will continue to rise over the next two days. Direct plume impacts from local fires could be a problem this afternoon and evening. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

A morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls is illustrated below:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind (the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage).



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

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DISCUSSION:

Smoke can be seen in the Bitterroot Valley, the Seeley Lake area, and the Wisdom area on this morning's satellite photo. The smoke from recent fire activity is mostly aloft but **MODERATE** smoke levels are currently impacting Whitefish, Missoula, and Hamilton. All the rest of the reporting stations are at **GOOD** this morning. Conditions in Western Montana are expected to get worse for few hours this morning and then improve for a while this afternoon before new smoke is starts to move back into the area. The advisories in the table below represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day. Residents downwind of the active fires and experiencing impacts from residual smoke will need to pay close attention to conditions in their area and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to determine current conditions.

John Coefield

Meteorologist

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, CS&KT run PM-10 TEOMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFU remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

Updated 10 AM August 25, 2007

These advisories represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day

<u>HAZARDOUS</u>	
<u>VERY UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS</u>	
<u>MODERATE</u>	Whitefish T8 Missoula T8 Hamilton T8

T1(x)	One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
T8(x)	Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
T24	24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
Vis(x)	Visibility value(number of hours)
Vis(am/pm)	Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
(est)	estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local visibility guidelines to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.